

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of

David L. Patton, et al

SYSTEM FOR CUSTOMIZING  
AND ORDERING  
PERSONALIZED POSTAGE  
STAMPS

Serial No. 09/378,159

Filed 19 August 1999

Group Art Unit: 3629

Examiner: Naresh Vig

Mail Stop APPEAL BRIEF-PATENTS  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

Sir:

**APPELLANT'S REPLY BRIEF**

This Reply Brief is necessitated by several "new points of argument" in the Examiner's Answer mailed November 1, 2007. Each new point of argument is addressed below in turn.

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's invention is not directed merely to forwarding information to a remote ordering system as set forth by the Examiner. The Examiner now for the first time is arguing that Applicant's claims do not include limitations regarding ordering of a customized postal stamp.

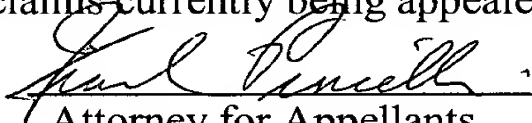
With regard to independent claim 1, this claim recites being directed to a system for ordering a custom official postal stamp. Claim 1 further includes essential authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system. Claim 1 specifically sets forth forwarding information to the remote ordering system for allowing customizing of an official postal stamp by a user or by a user incorporates images as part of the official stamp. It is quite clear that the claimed remote ordering system is designed for

ordering of customized official stamps. It is interesting to note that the Examiner in rejecting Applicant's claims in the final rejection states that the prior art discloses a system and method for ordering of an official postal stamp. However, the Examiner now argues that this is not part of the claimed invention. Somehow ordering appears to have been part of the invention in the final rejection, but now is not positively recited. Further, Applicants refer to claims 32-41, which specifically talk about the steps involved in ordering a custom official postal stamp. As can be seen from the various dependent claims, for example claim 34, which talks about filling out an electronic order form and returning the electronic order form to the centralized authorizing computer system. This is a specific implementation of ordering a custom official postal stamp. Claim 35 acknowledges the providing of a receipt and claim 36 discloses that the receipt provides a custom order identification order information facsimile of the image to be used on the customized official postal stamp. Quite clearly, the claims of the present invention are directed to ordering of an official customized postal stamp and is recited in the claims. Similarly, claims 42-48 are directed to a computer software product for use in the ordering custom official postal stamp. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that Applicant's invention is merely forwarding information to a remote ordering system. Applicant's invention is directed much more than simply sending information, but specifically sets forth the ability to order customized official stamps, including the uploading of a custom image that is to be used in the official postal stamp and allowing approval for such use. See for example, claims 38 and 39.

Applicant respectfully, for the above reasons and for the reasons set forth in Applicant's Appeal Brief, that the claims as currently set forth are

patentably distinct over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interference reverse the rejection by the Examiner and mandate the allowance of the claims currently being appealed.

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Enclosures

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.